

SENATE—Monday, July 9, 2001

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, we return to the work of this busy month ahead with the words and the music of the Independence Day celebration sounding in our souls. Now that the fireworks are over, work in us the fire of patriotism that has been the secret of truly great leaders throughout our history. We pray for the women and men of this Senate. Enlarge their hearts until they are big enough to contain the gift of Your spirit; expand their minds until they are capable of thinking Your thoughts; deepen their mutual trust so that they can work harmoniously for what is best for this Nation. You know all the legislation to be debated and voted on before the August recess. Grant the Senators a profound trust in You, a deep desire to seek Your will, and an unlimited supply of Your supernatural strength.

With renewed interdependence and deep dependence on You as fellow patriots, galvanize the Senators in the spirit of our founders expressed in their reliance on You and the pledge of their lives, fortunes, and their sacred honor for the next stage of Your strategy for America. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 o'clock p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Chair announced, we are going to be in morning business until 1 p.m. At 1 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill under the previous order which calls for amendments to be offered prior to 6 p.m.

Over 40 amendments have been filed. I hope and guess that probably all of those will not be offered before 6 o'clock. But I would say to the Chair that I hope Senators will come to the floor and offer those amendments, debate them, so arrangements can be made as to whether the managers will accept the amendments or whether a time will be set in the future for votes. It is the leader's expectation we will finish this bill tomorrow. There are other appropriations bills we would like to finish this week also. In fact, the leader has every desire to finish the Interior appropriations bill and the supplemental bill this week. We will hear more from the leader at a subsequent time. But these are the two bills we must finish this week, and if we can finish them Thursday, that will be fine. I am sure, if we can't, the leader will want to go into Friday to complete the bills, or if it takes longer than that. I think they are both capable of being finished very quickly.

There are no rollcall votes today. There will be no rollcall votes until 2:15 tomorrow after the party caucuses.

BIPARTISAN PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before we adjourned for the recess, the Senate passed the bipartisan McCain-Kennedy-Edwards Patients' Bill of Rights and proved that protecting patients' rights is not a partisan issue. We can all be proud of the strong bipartisan compromises we reached which have the support of virtually every health care provider group in this country. This bill has achieved such overwhelming support because it represents a balanced approach to ensuring patient safety and health plan accountability without significantly raising premiums or employer costs.

This landmark legislation will ensure that every privately insured American can enjoy important patient protection. For example, the bill will ensure that patients can have access to emergency room care; women can easily access OB/GYN services; children can access the specialty care they need; patients can access the prescription drugs prescribed for them; patients can par-

ticipate in potential lifesaving clinical trials; patients can access necessary specialists, even if it means going out of the plan's provider network; chronically ill patients can receive the specialty care they need in an attempt to save their lives; patients with ongoing health care needs have continuity of care; and patients can hold their managed care plan accountable when plan decisions to withhold or limit care result in injury or death.

When I went home this past week people said, What does the bill do? Briefly, it is very old-fashioned in nature. It allows a doctor to render care that that doctor believes is appropriate to take care of that patient, whether it be prescribing drugs, whether it be surgery or other treatment. That is what the bill does.

Passage of this bill would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of many people. First of all, the distinguished majority leader, Mr. DASCHLE, was involved in this legislation in its formative stage and every day we were in the Chamber. I think this showed to the American public what most of us have known for many years—that Senator DASCHLE really is a great leader. He indicated we were going to finish the bill before the Fourth of July break. Some people smiled, some snickered, and some thought it would be totally impossible. But it was done. It was done with all amendments being offered. Cloture was not filed. It was the way legislation should move. We spent some long hours in this Chamber, but as a result of his leadership we were able to do this work. This is an issue on which he has been working for 5 years; for 5 years we have waited to pass this meaningful and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights that will protect all privately insured Americans. And I say again, Senator DASCHLE was able to forge bipartisan support for this critical legislation and ensure passage as a result of his patience.

We indeed also have to acknowledge the work done by the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator TED KENNEDY. He was on this floor every minute of every day not only for the 2 weeks it took to pass the Patients' Bill of Rights but for 2 weeks prior to do the education bill. He has worked on this issue longer than anyone, was able to confront every contentious amendment, and managed to keep the integrity of the bill totally intact. Senator KENNEDY did great work. It shows what a fine Senator he is. Those of us who depend on him for leadership always